

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA
NORTHERN DIVISION

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|---------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| KENTRELL JONES, #256 065, |) | |
| |) | |
| Plaintiff, |) | |
| |) | |
| v. |) | CASE NO. 2:20-CV-487-ECM-SRW |
| |) | [WO] |
| ELMORE CORRECTIONAL |) | |
| FACILITY, et al., |) | |
| |) | |
| Defendants. |) | |

RECOMMENDATION OF THE MAGISTRATE JUDGE

Plaintiff filed this *pro se* 42 U.S.C. § 1983 action on July 13, 2020. On September 11, 2020, the Court entered an order of procedure. Doc. 8. The order directed Defendants to file an answer and written report, and also directed Plaintiff to “immediately inform the Court and Defendants or Defendants’ counsel of record . . . of any change in his address.” Doc. 8 at 3, ¶6. The order also advised Plaintiff that “[f]ailure to provide a correct address to this court within ten (10) days following any change of address will result in the dismissal of this action.” *Id.*

On September 16, 2021, Plaintiff’s copy of an order entered on September 2, 2021, was returned to the Court marked as undeliverable because Plaintiff is no longer housed at the last service address he provided. Accordingly, the Court entered an order on September 17, 2021, requiring that by October 1, 2021, Plaintiff show cause why this case should not be dismissed for his failure to adequately prosecute this action. Doc. 36. The order specifically advised Plaintiff that this case could not proceed if his whereabouts remained unknown and informed him that his failure to comply with the order would result in a

recommendation that this case be dismissed. *Id.* Plaintiff's copy of the September 17, 2021, was returned to the Court on September 30, 2021, marked as undeliverable.

Because of Plaintiff's failure to comply with the Court's orders, the undersigned concludes that this case should be dismissed without prejudice. *Moon v. Newsome*, 863 F.2d 835, 837 (11th Cir. 1989) (As a general rule, where a litigant has been forewarned, dismissal for failure to obey a court order is not an abuse of discretion.). The authority of courts to impose sanctions for failure to prosecute or obey an order is longstanding and acknowledged by Rule 41(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. *See Link v. Wabash R.R. Co.*, 370 U.S. 626, 629–30 (1962). This authority empowers the courts "to manage their own affairs so as to achieve the orderly and expeditious disposition of cases." *Id.* at 630–31; *Mingo v. Sugar Cane Growers Co-Op of Fla.*, 864 F.2d 101, 102 (11th Cir. 1989) (holding that "[t]he district court possesses the inherent power to police its docket."). "The sanctions imposed [upon dilatory litigants] can range from a simple reprimand to an order dismissing the action with or without prejudice." *Id.*

Accordingly, the undersigned Magistrate Judge RECOMMENDS that this case be DISMISSED without prejudice.

It is ORDERED that **by March 16, 2022**, the parties may file objections to this Recommendation. The parties must specifically identify the factual findings and legal conclusions in the Recommendation to which objection is made. Frivolous, conclusive or general objections will not be considered by the Court. This Recommendation is not a final order and, therefore, it is not appealable.

Failure to file written objections to the proposed findings and recommendations in accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1) will bar a party from a de novo determination by

the District Court of legal and factual issues covered in the Recommendation and waive the right of the party to challenge on appeal the District Court's order based on unobjected-to factual and legal conclusions accepted or adopted by the District Court except upon grounds of plain error or manifest injustice. *Nettles v. Wainwright*, 677 F.2d 404 (5th Cir. 1982); 11TH Cir. R. 3–1. *See Stein v. Reynolds Sec., Inc.*, 667 F.2d 33 (11th Cir. 1982); *see also Bonner v. City of Prichard*, 661 F.2d 1206 (11th Cir. 1981) (en banc).

DONE, on this the 1st day of March, 2022.

/s/ Susan Russ Walker
Susan Russ Walker
United States Magistrate Judge